

**WYCOMBE Wanderers**, who have scored only two goals in their last four matches, looked to be heading towards another goalless draw after 45 minutes of the match against Barking on Tuesday. But in a marvellous second half performance, the Blues scored twice in a minute and added two more goals for a thoroughly deserved and welcome triumph.

Although out of the title race as Dagenham and Enfield plough towards the championship, Wycombe showed they are still a force to be reckoned with and gave themselves a real confidence booster in their last game before the Anglo-Italian tie against Pistoiese next Tuesday.

After 0-0 draws with Walthamstow and Clapton last week and a 2-1 extra-time defeat in the Subsidiary Cup the previous evening, Wanderers deserve the highest praise for raising their game against Barking, especially in the second half when they must have been feeling the effects of two games in two days.

And no-one deserves more praise than Terry Reardon, one of Wycombe's most consistent players this season. Reardon was immaculate on Tuesday night and stamped his class on the game from the start. I was delighted Terry could crown a brilliant performance with a superb goal in the closing stages, for it was a fitting reward for his season's efforts.

Other players to stand out were Dave Alexander, who had to switch from midfield to full back, a much maligned but much improved Dylan Evans and Tony Horseman, whose uncanny flicks and nudges proved more than a handful to the visitors. Geoff Anthony was also in great form and a constant menace.

As for Barking, they were disappointing. With Ian Morgan, the former Q.P.R. star in their ranks, they failed to test goalkeeper John Maskell once in the game and had very little to offer. Morgan was completely outshone by Reardon.

#### LOOKED BLEAK

At first though, we saw the all-

## Wycombe Wanderers 4, Barking 0 REPORT BY STUART EARP

too-familiar pattern of Wycombe's recent play. Good approach work with ineffective finishing left both the players and the crowd frustrated while the defence dominated at the back without undue alarms. Fittingly, the half's best effort came from Reardon, whose 25 yard drive thudded into Dear's body in the 24th minute. Barratt, Barking's most skilful player, went close with a fine run after half an hour but things looked bleak with the score at 0-0 after 45 minutes.

The second half saw a complete transformation in the Wycombe side. John Delaney started things moving by racing up to join attacks whenever possible while Alexander covered at full back. Barking brought everyone back to defend and for a time, it seemed sheer weight on numbers would foil Wanderers who overelaborated on many attacking moves.

But suddenly things began to click. The hard working Anthony intercepted some casual Barking passing inside the penalty area after 64 minutes and drove in a shot which cannoned against a post. Horseman followed up but Ken Varney cleared off the line.

A minute later, Wanderers were 2-0 up. The first goal was created by the fine running of Graham Mackenzie who found himself unmarked on the right flank. Receiving the ball, he cut in and crossed. Evans miskicked but recovered to try another shot and as the ball bobbed near the line, Mackenzie bravely headed home.

The crowd had hardly started to celebrate when the Blues scored again within seconds. This was tailor-made by Horseman, whose incisive pass sent Evans galloping clear towards goal. Dylan gave Dear no chance with a perfect shot high into the net.

After that, there was no stopping the Blues. They took Barking apart with some tremendous football and the best move of the match came in the 78th minute. Mick Hollifield won the ball for Horseman who flicked a pass off the outside of his boot through to

Evans. Dylan ran on and swerved a shot towards the net, only for Dear to stick out a desperate hand and tip the ball away for a corner. From the flag kick Delaney got in a powerful header which crashed against the crossbar with Dear beaten.

Dear pushed away an Evans header before Wanderers went 3-0 up after 84 minutes. Keith Mead got this one with a firm header off the underside of the bar after Hollifield's corner had only been half cleared by the Barking defence. Anthony followed up to make sure.

But the best goal of the four — and one of the Loakes Park goals of the season — came two minutes from time. Mackenzie, who could be a fine prospect next term, again found space on the right and sent over a hard, low cross. Reardon bent forward and steered a perfectly placed header deep into the corner of the net to seal a memorable victory.

**WYCOMBE:** J. Maskell; D. Alexander, K. Mead, J. Delaney, R. Eaton; G. Mackenzie, T. Reardon, M. Hollifield; D.

Evans, A. Horseman, G. Anthony. Sub P. Birdseye (not used).

**BARKING:** A. Dear; R. Sullivan, K. Barratt, G. Ferry, K. Varney; A. Marohant, I. Morgan, L. Abrahams; D. Francis, P. Burton, C. Ballard. Sub. R. Morgan (not used).

**Referee:** C. Gregory (Woking).

**Half-time:** 0-0. Goalscorers: Wycombe — Mackenzie (65), Evans (65), Mead (84), Reardon (88).

#### ROTHMANS ISTHMIAN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

(Up to and inc. 27/4/76)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dagenham	38	24	6	8	83	42	78
Wycombe	40	22	10	8	82	38	76
Ilford	38	22	8	9	55	34	74
Enfield	38	22	7	6	70	28	73
Dilworth	42	22	5	15	87	41	71
Hendon	41	19	11	11	56	39	68
L'head	42	19	10	13	63	53	67
Staines	39	19	8	12	45	32	65
Slough	40	17	11	12	57	43	62
Tooting	37	17	9	11	61	43	60
Sutton	39	16	10	13	66	55	58
W'stow	42	14	11	17	47	60	53
Woking	42	14	9	19	58	62	51
Bishops	40	13	12	15	48	47	51
Haves	42	10	19	13	44	48	49
Hitchin	40	13	10	17	43	54	49
Barking	40	14	8	20	56	67	48
Kings	41	14	8	19	53	66	47
L'stone	41	10	10	21	41	61	40
Southall	39	9	9	21	49	64	36
Oxford	41	9	8	24	29	63	36
Clapton	42	3	3	36	19	112	12

### 4-4 draw

**KNOTTY Green Ramblers** and **YAC** drew 4-4 after extra time in the Maxwell Transport Sunday Shield final at Marlow on Tuesday night.

## Table presentation

A HANDSOME High Wycombe made table has been presented to Wycombe Wanderers for their committee room by Mrs. Pat Smethurst in memory of her husband, Jack, who was until his death a few months ago the club chairman.

The table complements the chairman's chair which was presented some years ago to the memory of a previous club chairman, Eric Webb.

Craftsman made, by W. Hands and Sons Ltd., it is

in English oak, with a blue leather top inlay.

At an informal meeting in the committee room on Sunday morning, Mrs. Smethurst made the presentation to the present chairman, Reg Williams, and other officials and Mr. Williams, thanking her, said the table would not only perpetuate the memory of a fine sportsman and chairman but would prove a handsome and useful addition to the committee room.